



ACCESS SACRAMENTO

Monday, May 31, 1999

To The Federal Communications Commission:

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on NPRM concerning the creation of a low power FM service. We at Access Sacramento Community Access Radio and Television are in favor of this rulemaking and believe that this service can only augment the existing full service fm stations currently in the fm spectrum. Access Sacramento supports the non-commercial use of these new low power stations to lesson market pressure as it relates to community programming. The FCC is on the right track in trying to give the airwaves back to the “little guy”, the mom and pop services upon which this country’s radio industry was built. Community radio stations whose focus is on local and timely issues and who continue to operate “in the public interest”. These services need to be created and fostered to provide an alternative to corporate, commercial radio. By returning the airwaves back to the people, low power radio can once again serve smaller, targeted audiences who cannot afford the fees and ownership costs associated with larger broadcasters.

Access Sacramento is host to two community access cable radio stations. Cable community radio is extremely rare in our country. For over ten years, Sacramento County residents have produced and listened to a unique blend of musical styles and informative public affairs programs through facilities and services provided

The Voice of Sacramento began in 1986 when Access Sacramento opened for business. By 1988, the stations cablecast round the clock. Two years later as many as 70 individual volunteers produced regular biweekly radio shows. We currently produce a weekly lineup with nearly 50 different shows.

One can hear The Voice in a number of ways. We have two FM cable radio frequencies, the Community Use channel at 88.7 MHz., and the Public Access channel at 89.9 MHz. Last year we began sending our signal out to the world over the Internet via streaming audio. We currently “net cast” from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM (Pacific Time) during the week. Check out our web site at www.sacramento.org/voice. The Voice is also carried on our Public Access Cable TV channel 74 under an interactive graphic bulletin board system.

In May of 1998, Access Sacramento completed an agreement, two years in the making, with San Juan Unified School District which gives us access to the District’s FM radio transmitter. We share the frequency with students from El Camino High School. The Voice simulcast over KYDS 91.5 FM during the week from 5:00 PM to 7:00 AM and throughout the weekends, summer vacations and school holidays. KYDS broadcasts with an effective radiative power of 414 watts. The station reaches over 40 miles in any direction and serves the counties of Sacramento, Placer, El Dorado, and Yolo. We at

Access Sacramento are very pleased and encouraged by our new acquisition as it allows us to be heard throughout the greater Sacramento area. Listeners now can pick up The Voice on their cars and carry our station with them without necessarily being tied to the cable or Internet feeds.

Probably the greatest asset is our volunteer air personalities. You will hear real folks presenting local programming with dedication and professionalism. Listeners continue to be won over by these enthusiastic volunteers and their eclectic programs.

Considering our track record of dedication and service to Sacramento it is only fitting that we express our support for the Low Power FM service that will be created beginning with NPRM MM 99-25. We would hope to be a vibrant participant in the low power community and eagerly await the go ahead for filing. Thank you again for striving to advance the concept of free speech and give radio back to the people.

Access Sacramento
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